

Hot on the Sun's Trail

on Thursday, warming the ride for a mountain biker on the Shoreline Trail near This Is the Place Monument. Allegedly, a stray thunderstorm is forecast to swing over northern Utah. For weather info, see Page D-14.

Seeking Protective Order

is issue, but claimant alleges he is hiding illegal monies

Nielson Co., the political consultant Cook hired to run his successful campaign.

District Judge Sandra Peuler has yet decided whether to issue a protective order that Cook's lawyers say will prevent the release of "hard-to-get information" and guard against invasion of the contributors' privacy."

Nielson firm's lawyers said in papers filed last week that Cook had purposely filed inaccurate campaign-finance reports and is merely trying to hide illegal 1994 and 1996 campaign donations from his explosives manufacturing company, Cook Slurry.

The multimillionaire Cook, a perennial candidate, spent \$1 million, including \$866,000 of his own money, to win election two years ago. It was his first win in seven tries for elective office.

Nielson claimed the firm was owed about \$200,000 for unpaid work as part of an oral agreement, but Cook argued there was no oral agreement and that he already paid Nielson \$229,000 under a written agreement and should get back \$5,000 of that.

During an interview this week, Cook said the firm's president, Ron Nielson,

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Abusers Will Get Notices

Utahns on database of their right to challenge allegations

care, social work or child care. The law requires DHS to search its records from 1988 to the present, and to notify all suspected abusers of their right to challenge the allegations at an administrative hearing.

Utahns are now in the process of sending 100 certified letters to those whose names show up on the database. After receipt of the letter, they will get 30 days to request a hearing on the allegations, said Robin Arnold-Williams, executive director.

Cases on the database are only those that ended in "substantiated" allegations of physical abuse, sexual abuse, exploitation, extreme medical neglect leading to death or disability, abandonment

and chronic neglect.

And the law is clear about what counts as substantiated abuse: those cases that have been fully investigated by Division of Protective Services caseworkers who concluded the abuse did occur, whether or not criminal charges were filed.

It is vital that recipients not ignore the letters, Arnold-Williams said. If an individual receives a letter and fails to respond, his or her name will remain in the database.

"People have the right to an attorney at their administrative hearing," she said. "We know it will be an unpleasant

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EPA Lists Utah's MagCorp as No. 1 U.S. Toxic Emitter

BY HEATHER MAY

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Magnesium Corp. of America, located in Tooele County, is the No. 1 emitter of toxic chemicals in the nation, according to a report released Thursday.

The Environmental Protection Agency's "Toxics Release Inventory" (TRI) ranked Utah 11th in the nation for on- and off-site releases of toxic chemicals, with 82.3 million pounds. Two other companies in Utah also made the top 50 list of polluters.

Magnesium Corp., or MagCorp, releases chlorine into the air as it extracts magnesium chloride salts from the Great Salt Lake. It long has been the largest chlorine emitter in the nation and one of the largest sources of toxic air pollutants.

It released 65.3 million pounds of chlorine in 1996 — the most recent year for which data are available. Its emissions not only distinguish MagCorp as the top emitter, but place it fourth in the nation for production-related waste with

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CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

In a U.S. Senate vote Wednesday, Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, voted to continue debate on a tobacco bill. Bob Bennett, also R-Utah, voted to end the debate. A story in Thursday's *Tribune* misstated the votes.

MagCorp Listed By EPA as No. 1 Toxic Emitter

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297 million pounds.

Production-related waste includes on- and off-site releases that go directly to the air, water and soil and the waste the company treats through burning, recycling or disposal.

MagCorp's emissions placed Tooele as the county producing the most on- and off-site toxins.

MagCorp's parent company, Renco Group Inc., based in New York, also was the nation's top emitter in 1996, with 73.5 million pounds.

Brent Bradford, deputy director for the state's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), said he was not surprised by the

rankings. "We know [MagCorp] is a large [emitter]. They're not an uncontrollable emitter."

Neither the state nor the nation has a standard for chlorine emissions and nobody knows the effect the chlorine is having on Utah residents. MagCorp has reduced its toxins by 40 percent since it first opened, Bradford said.

Environmentalists are not convinced.

"Utah should not allow them to continue to be this enormous polluter," said Nina Dougherty, chairwoman of the Sierra Club's Utah chapter and board member of the Wasatch Clean Air Coalition. "This is outrageous and embarrassing."

Bradford said the state regulates MagCorp through its permits and the DEQ is monitoring the emissions' effects in Grantsville — the community closest to the company. So far, the chlorine emissions are below levels that cause health problems, he said.

MagCorp officials did not return *Tribune* phone calls.

The TRI also ranked the Chev-

ron USA Products refinery in Salt Lake City and Magna's Kennecott Utah Copper in its top-50 list.

The Chevron listing was a mistake, according to its officials. The TRI reported the company produces 72.7 million pounds of toxins, placing it 41st in production-related waste. It actually only produced 900,000 pounds, said spokesman Walt Maguire. He said Chevron reported the numbers to the EPA incorrectly.

Kennecott Utah Copper was ranked 28th for releasing 10.1 million pounds in 1996.

Bill Williams, Kennecott's director of health safety and environment, said a company of Kennecott's size is bound to produce a lot of waste.

"The risks of these emissions are . . . well within safe limits," he said. "We do waste minimization as much as we can."

Kennecott has reduced the pollution it sends to the Great Salt Lake by 90 percent in the past five years. In the same amount of time, air pollution dropped by 20 percent, Williams said.

Agency To Notify 9,700 Alleged Abusers

■ Continued from D-1

thing for some people to get this letter in the mail. But we maintain our focus is on protecting children."

The whole database scenario has long conjured up images of DHS as Big Brother. A frequent critic of the old system was Scott

Family Services.

Clark had warned DHS that the database — which since its inception had included both substantiated and unsubstantiated claims — made the agency a prime target for litigation.

Clark has urged anyone who receives a DHS letter to request a hearing and advises them to bring a lawyer along.

The law specifies that all requested hearings take place by Dec. 1. But because of the large caseload, the department will split the job — notifying those accused in the years 1988 to 1994 first. The second group — those accused between 1995 and 1997

ters to go out in that batch.

It is difficult to predict how many people will seek administrative hearings, Arnold-Williams said. Among the department's active cases, usually no more than 8.5 percent of people request a hearing, she said.

If people cannot be reached by letter, their names will be dropped from the database.

Arnold-Williams believes the due-process period will be completed by next spring. Two databases will then exist: one for use by child-protection caseworkers and one for the licensing offices of the Health and Human Services Department. Those agencies



Leah Hogsten/The Salt Lake Tribune

Candace Collier, left, and Whitney Morgan pretend they're in Sandusky, Ohio. Their class is trekking more than 2,400 miles.

he steep hill on the north side of the school at 11515 S. High Mesa Drive.

Two students have run all the way. The rest have walked, some-

Their journey has taken them to Lake Tahoe, Flaming Gorge and Jackson, Wyo. They have crossed Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois and on Tuesday arrived in Sandusky, Ohio, on the shores of